

Ochoco and Deschutes National Forests and Prineville District, Bureau of Land Management Office of Communications

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News and Information
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Upper Deschutes Resource Management Plan Meeting

CENTRAL OREGON—The Prineville District BLM continues its collaborative planning process for the Upper Deschutes Resource Management Plan (UDRMP), a large-scale plan that will shape the future management of public lands that stretch north to Lake Billy Chinook, south to La Pine, west to Sisters and east to Prineville Reservoir.

To date, numerous issue team meetings have assisted government planners in developing this large-scale land use plan. The issue teams provide a link back to the local communities, providing extensive public involvement in the planning process.

The next issue team meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 1st, from 9:00-4:00 at the Eagle Crest Resort in the Conference Center. The issue teams will be finalizing the recommendations of the Preferred Alternative Subcommittee, which will be considered in the preparation of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

The issue teams are chartered working groups of the Deschutes Provincial Advisory Committee and include a wide cross section of federal, tribal and local governments and agencies, special interest groups and other members of local communities

“Our issue team meetings have helped us identify important environmental, cultural and socio-economic issues. We are working towards reaching consensus, where possible, in some key areas of concern,” said Deschutes Resource Area Field Manager Robert Towne.

The key areas include:

- ❖ Providing for motorized and non-motorized recreation opportunities while providing wildlife habitat and aesthetic values
- ❖ Managing grazing and mineral development while protecting aesthetic, ecosystem and social values
- ❖ Making land tenure allocations, including lands available for community expansion, in a manner that is sensitive to ecosystem, recreation and aesthetic values
- ❖ Managing old growth juniper ecosystems while considering ecosystem, recreation, aesthetic and economic values

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The issue team meetings are open to the public, with a brief opportunity for public comment that may be submitted verbally or in written form. A Draft Environmental Impact Statement is scheduled for release in the Fall of 2003. At that time, the public will have a 90-day period in which to comment on the draft plan.

For more information on the Upper Deschutes Resource Management Plan, visit our website at http://www.or.blm.gov/Prineville/Deschutes_RMP/Home.htm or contact Mike Williams, Bureau of Land Management, Prineville District Office, 3050 NE Third Street, Prineville, Oregon 97754, or call (541) 416-6700.

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